

Welcome Father Chris Koehn, Our New Pastor!


by Jenny Hammond



As Father Chris Koehn joins one of the largest parishes in the Diocese of Raleigh, he will, as the most common phrase in the bible says, 'Be not afraid!' His sense of calm is because he is used to having a large family, and his new St. Francis family will be familiar as he begins his newest, but not first, pastoral role: "My dad is one of eight children, and my mom one of 10 children. I have three older brothers, four nephews, three great-nephews, and two great-nieces. So I am used to lots of family." Even a family like St. Francis, springing from many different traditions, is not unusual for someone whose father is from Kansas and whose mother is from Liverpool, England.

When asked about his spiritual journey and call to vocation, Father Chris says, "The path to a vocation is one of 'invitation.' I was invited to go to high school seminary and again invited to go to seminary after college." While not ignored, Chris chose a different path, but only at first. After college, he went into business with his family. "My business life started in public accounting and then transitioned with my brother into construction project management," says Chris. "We traveled renovating hotels, usually spending a year or two on each project. I was lucky to live and work in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Texas, Georgia, Florida, Virginia and North Carolina. The

Continue on page 3

A click away  If you are receiving a paper copy, visit the parish website at www.stfrancisraleigh.org.

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July 8-12, July 15-19, July 22-26

Camp Francis is our popular summer camp, and has lots of cool opportunities in athletics, technologies, arts and various enrichment areas! Camps are half day or full day based on age for the 2024-2025 school year. (Rising K-Rising 8th grade) Contact Ashley Watson, Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org Contact Phone 919-847-8205 ext. 444 Registration Link: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/camp-francis/>

Camp Francis Explorers Counselors in Training

An opportunity for teens (rising 9th-12th grade) interested in developing leadership skills and working with children. They will work with other C.I.T.s and Camp Staff. They are to look at themselves as role models for the campers they will be working with. For information and to apply. Contact Ashley Watson, Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.

June Offertory Challenge - Thank You!

On behalf of the Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi, I would like to thank you for the tremendous response to our June Offertory Challenge. Your generosity has closed the prior forecasted \$70,000 Offertory deficit. Today, we are happy to report that we have made our Offertory budget goal for the current fiscal year, which ends this weekend. We are now well positioned to close the books for this year and transition over to our new fiscal year, on July 1st. Again, Thank You.

Rob Neppel
Director of Finance & Planning

Level C Personnel - UPDATE

On July 15 2024, the safe environment training renewal and criminal background screening system will be updated. Everyone (clergy, volunteers, and staff) who entered our database in 2023 or earlier, will be asked to verify the data in our system and begin the process of annual safe environment training renewal. All clergy, religious, seminarians, staff and volunteers (in ministry with children and teens) are LEVEL C PERSONNEL!

You will receive an email from; Tech support noreply@dioceseofraleigh.safeenvironment.org. You will be asked to verify your profile data and renew your safe environment training via the new online system. If you have not updated your email address with your local parish/school or agency, or if you do not get the July email, please send your name and correct email to SET.support@raldioc.org.

Thank you for being active in ministry!"



Mercy Camp participants prepare food packages.

June 30-Aug 15 - Tutors Needed -The Education Committee of St. Francis of Assisi (programs operated by Wake Together).

You can start working this summer as a volunteer for 2nd through 5th grade students. For more information contact k.llewellyn@helpingeducation.org or via phone at 1-833-726-8855x714. The time commitment includes 4 hours of online training at your convenience and one hour a week meeting virtually with students from June 25-Aug. 15.

July 13 - Women's Ministry Yoga and Breakfast 9:00-11:00am.

Join the Women's Ministry for a morning of yoga, breakfast and community! We will be meeting in Fellowship Hall for a 45 minute beginner yoga class followed by a prayerful meditation, food and fellowship! Please bring your water bottle, yoga mat and your own coffee/tea cups. Contact sfawomensministry@gmail.com with questions. [Register here.](#)

July 8 - 12 Mission Mercy

8:30am-9:00pm. Rising 10th graders through College Freshmen! Join us for Mission Mercy!

For more information and to register for Mercy Camp or Mission Mercy visit: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/service-camps/>
Contact Becky Cawley, becky.cawley@stfrancisraleigh.org.

July 19-21 - Ayuda Matrimonial - Retrouvaille (pronunciado retro-vi)

ha ayudado a decenas de miles de parejas en todas las etapas de desilusión o miseria en su matrimonio. Este programa también puede ayudarte a ti. Para obtener información confidencial o inscribirse en el programa de verano en español que comienza con un fin de semana del 19 al 21 de julio, llame al 305-915-4607 (español e inglés) o envíe un correo electrónico a: retrovailleraleigh@gmail.com o visite el sitio web en HelpOurMarriage.com.

July 10 and 14 - Marriage Mentor Couples Training

See ad on page 4

July 13 - September 7 - Farm to Church CSA Sign Up (Summer Veggie Box) 9:00-10:00am. [Sign up here.](#)

The Community Supported Agriculture Program invites you to purchase a summer subscription! This Farm to Church program supports local BIPOC farmers and sustainable farming methods. Purchase a full or half share of items such as cucumbers, zucchini, squash, beans, corn, kale, lettuce, onions, watermelon, cantaloupe, okra, peppers and tomatoes. [Link to website page.](#) Contact Elizabeth Kearse, eskearse@gmail.com.

Catholic Charities - Home Repair Program

Volunteers are needed for multi-day trips (3-7 days) to build a tiny home in the Cape Fear Region for a Hurricane Florence survivor. Volunteer housing, tools/equipment, and supportive instructions for all experience levels will be provided! [Learn more about this build here!](#) Please reach out to CC directly with questions. Contact Daniel Altenau, Daniel.Altenu@ccharitiesdor.org.

[Click here for Mass Intentions](#)

Funerals at St. Francis

Would you like to be notified in advance of upcoming funerals at St. Francis? If so, please contact Joan Port, joankport@gmail.com and include "Funeral Notices" in the subject line.

Support our Local Parishioner-Owned Businesses

[Parishioner Owned Businesses Ad Page](#)

To advertise email: diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org
Link: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/parishioner-businesses/>

Employment Opportunities:

[Preschool Teacher Assistant \(Part-time\) – two-year old classrooms.](#)
[Preschool Before and After school program workers.](#) [Coordinator or Cross Step Program.](#) [Preschool 3 year old TA.](#) [Middle School Formation Coordinator](#) See our website: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/>
Contact Trish Adamkowski, trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org

If you can't access information through the hyperlink because you do not use the internet, please call the office to get information. (919) 847-8205

work and travel allowed me to be a parishioner in many places and use my hospitality knowledge in ministry." Still, his faith remained crucial in his life, and even those he worked with knew it. "My coworkers always encouraged me to go to daily Mass during my career, as they reported I was nicer and easier to work with upon my return from Mass," says Chris humorously.

The invitations to vocation, however, continued. "The third invitation to be a seminarian came at the age of 46. With an early retirement from the business world began a new vocation journey with the seminary in Boston." Ordained in 2018 and serving at St. Thomas More and St. Mary Magdalene previously, he says, "Now the invitation is to serve the Community of St. Francis." This previous life experience makes Father Chris a bit unique. Father Jim Sabak says, "Chris will be a welcomed and very different type of pastor from those in recent memory. Having lived a fulfilling life before he responded to God's call, he comes with a sense of vitality and joy expressed in an infectious gregariousness. I look forward to sharing his joy with the joy that makes St. Francis a unique and extraordinary faith community!"

Our schools are essential to St. Francis, and Father Jim is a strong advocate of that ministry at our Parish. Father Chris comes from parishes with schools and believes that "Catholic schools are a service of the parish." He adds, "The church is in the model of family, and our schools are the family of the church teaching our children." He finds Catholic Schools to be a natural extension of every family's role in caring for children. "We are one family, parish and school, and the church always desires to be part of our family," he says, and "Parish schools are a very active part of family life." Father Chris believes serving a school community mirrors serving the parish community. "We are ministers to the students, but also the faculty," he points out, and finds that, like ripples in a pond, "Then it expands into the lives of the students, faculty, and staff. So we have siblings, grandparents, uncles, aunts, and all those in their families connected to us."

He is excited when looking ahead to his appointment as pastor of St. Francis. "My assignment at St. Francis allows me to experience the great things the parish is known for: The witness of

the faith in social justice, intentional hospitality, knowledge of our faith, and celebration with participation at the liturgies." He realizes that, like all parishes, we are in the same position when ministering to any church community. "When we come to Mass, we bring everything connected to us," he points out. "Priestly ministry, and the ministry of all the baptized, is to serve the whole person. Each day in parish life, there is a family in need, deep need, and we are called to be present and actively providing support, to be there, to love." When listening to Father Chris, it already seems like he has an innate sense of the community. He says he was given a clear mission by Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama for St. Francis that fits hand-in-glove with the hopes he has as pastor, "My hope is to be able to fulfill the instruction Bishop Luis gave me in the assignment to St. Francis, 'to bring joy!'"

The St. Francis of Assisi community is known as an open and welcoming place. We are excited to welcome Father Chris Koehn as our new pastor. We look forward to his joyful leadership and notable experience and share in his enthusiasm for his new role. Welcome!!

Volunteer Spotlight: Tim Burns

by Mike Watson

Tim Burns loves basketball. As a former college basketball player, his passion for the game is unsurprising, but that passion has led to more. "When I moved to Raleigh shortly after college," says Tim, "I immediately started volunteering at the YMCA as a referee. When I started dating my wife, we attended a few services at St Francis, and I noticed the basketball ministry contacts listed in the Church Bulletin." The rest, as they say, is history.

Tim's interest in basketball volunteering led him to his faith and to St Francis. "I spoke with Jerry Cucurullo, and I started refereeing in the Church League because it was closer to where I was living than the YMCA," says Tim. "Truth be told, the basketball program at St Francis is what drew me into the Church in the first place. I discovered a whole community of people with the same passion I had, but it just happened to be at Church." Jerry soon asked Tim if he would coach a team in the high school division, which he gladly accepted. "After falling in love with this community, I pursued the RCIA process," Tim recalls, "I grew up as a Lutheran but felt called to faith here, and I have been giving back ever since."



Why give back as a volunteer? Tim feels strongly, "We are called to share our talents with the Church. Everyone is good at or passionate about something, and there are so many ministries

available at St Francis where you can share your talents. Unsurprisingly, given his background, Tim quotes Nike when asked how he would encourage others to volunteer. "Just Do It," he says, "Find one of the many ministries available that match one of your interests or passions and get involved. You will be shocked how rewarding it is on so many levels."

Tim finds in his over 28 years of volunteering in the league that he also reaps many personally rewarding moments from his work. "I have met so many wonderful families through involvement with the basketball ministry. I have witnessed the kids I have coached grow into young adults and start their own families. Some come back to the league as referees or even coaches of their child's team." "But the most rewarding thing," he says, "is that no matter how old the kids get, they always address me as 'coach.' I love being out in a store or a restaurant and hearing off in the distance, 'Hey coach.' I always turn around and look with great anticipation to find out who I'm about to see."



There are many ways to give to St. Francis.



Scan the QR code to give

Text-to-Give: From your smartphone screen, create a new message. Click the "To:" field and enter 919-629-1199. Enter the dollar amount then tap the link to complete your gift. Register your credit/debit card.

To learn about all our giving options, [click here](#).



Attention All Happily Married Couples!

We are in great need of mentor couples to meet with newly engaged couples as part of their marriage prep!

What: Mentor couples meet with newly engaged couples to walk with them to help nurture a deep and lasting marriage, foster their relationship with Christ and provide a sense of belonging in our SFA community.

Who: Mentor couples are couples with a perfect marriage-Just Kidding! Mentor couples are living out the vocation of marriage as best as they can. Mentor couples can be interfaith but must have been married in the church.

When: Mentor couples meet with each couple 2-3 times in the months before their wedding to facilitate deeper communication between the couple around the results of a marriage prep survey.

How: Two training sessions will be offered with ongoing support for all mentor couples

Training Sessions:

Wednesday, July 10th, 6:30pm-9:30pm or Sunday, July 14th at 1pm-4pm in the Anthony Conference Room.

Please email kathy.sales@stfrancisraleigh.org for more information



yoga breakfast
with women's ministry
Saturday July 13 9 to 11 am
Register in Realm

Explore all the Volunteer Opportunities at St. Francis through St. Francis Serves
[Click here for volunteer ministry and service, St. Francis Serves.](#)
Contact Dina DaRe at dina.dare@stfrancisraleigh.org.
[Need help getting started? Click here.](#)

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers offer prayerful and emotional support by listening with their ears and hearts to your concerns. If you are in need of a Stephen Minister email stephenministry@stfrancisraleigh.org or call 919-847-8205 x234 or contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

A CONTEMPLATIVE CONVERSATION

[Click here to register in Realm](#) ON [Contact lorizagiba@gmail.com](mailto:lorizagiba@gmail.com).

MYSTICAL HOPE BY CYNTHIA BOURGEOULT

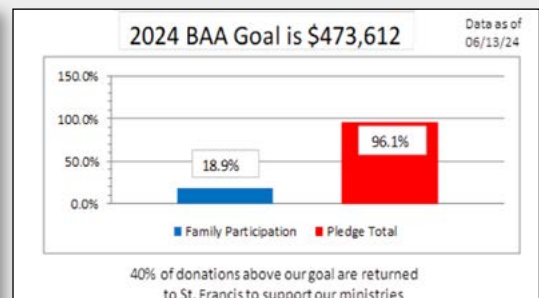
Online Meetings begin in June
2nd and 4th Tuesdays
7 to 8:30 pm



Bishop's Annual Appeal

The following are the BAA totals for our Parish as reported by the Diocese

	2024 Campaign (6/13/24)		2023 Campaign (6/15/23)	
Goal:	\$473,612		\$473,565	
Pledge Total:	\$455,265	96.1%	\$463,189	97.8%
Received Total:	\$427,529	90.3%	\$429,444	90.7%
Participating Families:	1,020	18.9%	1,109	20.2%
Total Families:	5,400		5,500	
To-Go:	\$18,347	TYT we are ahead on giving but falling behind on participation.		



Go to givetobaa.org and follow the prompts to make a one-time donation, set up a pledge or become a SUSTAINER with a recurring gift. Make sure to select Saint Francis of Assisi as your parish affiliation. [Click here to give](#). Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.